

The Times-Dispatch

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How to Call The Times-Dispatch.

Persons wishing to communicate with

The Times-Dispatch by telephone will ask

central for "4041," and on being answered

from the office switchboard will indicate

the department or person with whom they

wish to speak.

When calling from 5 A. M. and 9

A. M. call to central office direct for

4041 composing room, 4042 business office,

4043 for mailing and press rooms.

Prosperity is not without many

fears and distastes, and adversity is

not without comforts and hopes.

An Auditorium Assured.

Richmond's long-felt want is about to

be satisfied—and an auditorium commensurate

with the needs and dignity of

this city is practically assured. The Con-

federate Memorial Association has offered

one hundred thousand dollars for the

erection of an auditorium in Rich-

mond, provided that the city will give

an additional fifty thousand and furnish

the site. In addition, the Confederate

Memorial Association will set aside a

further fund of one hundred thousand

dollars to furnish an income for the

lighting, heating, and janitor service

of the auditorium; so that no expense

beyond the first contribution will be

required from Richmond.

The proposition is so liberal, and the

need so pressing that there should be

only one answer. The Times-Dispatch

was the first paper to call for a suitable

auditorium, and the public response to

that suggestion showed how deeply the

people felt. Now the desire has become

attainable, and with reasonable dispatch,

Richmond should be able to welcome

and shelter the thousands who will visit

the city next year, in a structure

worthy of the Confederate cause and

the Confederate Capital.

The Soldiers' Home.

So much has been said in criticism of

the management of the Soldiers'

Home for sending demented in-

mates to the State Hospital at Wil-

liamsburg that it seems fair to the

Times-Dispatch to give the other side

of the story. Before any Confederate

veteran can be admitted to this insti-

tution he must have the certificate of a

reputable physician testifying that the

applicant "is of sound mind, and not an

habitual drunkard, nor has he ever been

an inmate of an insane asylum." In

order to emphasize this prerequisite to

admission, on every application blank the

certificate is printed in red letters, and

underneath in red letters of a larger

type is the statement, "Insane persons

and habitual drunkards will not be ad-

mitted under any circumstances." The

reasons for this requirement are several,

and ought to be apparent. First of all,

the Soldiers' Home has no equipment for

the care of insane patients. It has a hos-

pital for the care of the sick, and all

sick inmates are given necessary medical

attention and professional nursing. But

there is no confinement for the insane.

But that is not all. Insane patients

would be not only expensive and trouble-

some to the management, but their pres-

ence would necessarily have a most de-

pressing effect upon the other veterans,

and it would be a great injustice to those

who are of sound mind to be compelled

to live in an institution which harbored

lunatics, to see them walking about the

premises in charge of keepers, to hear

their insane screams at all hours of the

day and night, and to be compelled to

associate more or less with them. If the

Soldiers' Home had on the premises

twenty-five or thirty insane patients, the

strong probability is that half the sane

inmates would lose their reason.

This is not an unusual provision for

charitable institutions. For example, the

constitution of the Richmond Male Or-

phan Society provides that "No boy shall

be received in the asylum who is a con-

firmed invalid, or who is afflicted with

any contagious disease, or whose mind

is in any way impaired." This provision

is made primarily for the protection of

the boys themselves. Clearly, it would

not do to have an insane boy in such an

institution.

The Times-Dispatch has no means of

knowing whether or not all the inmates

of the Soldiers' Home sent to the Wil-

liamsburg Hospital were sufficiently in-

sane to justify their commitment. But

no reasonable man can question the wis-

dom of the board in excluding from the

Soldiers' Home persons who have lost

their wits and who are proper subjects

for an insane asylum.

While on the subject it may be worth

while to remind the public that while

the State of Virginia is paying \$35,000

a year for the maintenance of the Soldiers'

Home, there is ground for the belief that

eventually the State will be in great part,

if not wholly, reimbursed for the outlay.

The total cost of the property, building,

repairs, furniture, fixtures and mainte-

nance of the Soldiers' Home from the

date of opening to December 31, 1905, was

\$687,215.00, of which the State contributed

\$527,971.00, and Lee Camp and private in-

dividuals contributed \$159,244.00. Under

a contract between Lee Camp and the

State of Virginia, embodied in an act ap-

proved March 3, 1892, in consideration of

a State appropriation from year to year

of \$35,000, the entire property was convey-

ed to the State of Virginia, upon con-

dition that the State "shall not divert

the possession or control of said property

from the grantor, unless said grantor con-

sents to surrender such possession and

control before that time (which it may

do) as long as said property is used for

the purpose for which it is now used,

and which it is agreed will be twenty-

two years from the passage of this act."

Under this act, which has the force

of a deed of record, the entire Soldiers'

Home property, containing twenty-six

acres of land in the growing section of

the city, together with all the improve-

ments thereon, will become absolutely

the possession of the State in the year

1914, if not sooner. It is a valuable prop-

erty, having some nine hundred front feet

on the Boulevard, which of itself is worth

perhaps \$400,000 a front foot, and it is es-

timated by shrewd business men that if

the city of Richmond continues to grow

as it has done within the past several

years, by the time the State gets pos-

session of the property its value will be

sufficient to repay it for all appropri-

ations made to date. That, of course, is a

matter of conjecture, but this much is

certain: It will be worth largely more

than the aggregate appropriations for the

next seven years, and until the Soldiers'

Home becomes State property. Approp-

riations thus far have been charged up

to profit and loss, and nobody begrudges

the money which the State has expended

in this direction, but the aggregate ap-

propriations from this time on will cer-

tainly not be equal to the value of the

property when it becomes the posses-

sion of the State.

The Force of Example.

Richmond is to spend a million dol-

lars for the improvement of the city, and

never was a wiser conclusion reached

or a better business proposition made

than the summing up of the city's

hills offer naturally a system of sewer-

age that insures a clean city, and with

it, clean streets, better water and the

other improvements suggested, the old

capital city will take on new life, and

stand forth at for inspection in the

light of the twentieth century.

Richmond has the money, and is catch-

ing up with the progress of the nation

in moving along the lines of better city

government and a clean and well or-

dered municipality. It is an invitation

to capital. It is an inspiration to busi-

ness—for a filthy city indicates a sloth-

ful spirit that is out of harmony with

the martial music of the onward march

toward better achievements in municipal

government.

Norfolk may well lend an attentive

ear to the story that comes from Rich-

mond, for there is fine opportunity here

to begin a similar work.—Norfolk Ledger-

Dispatch.

Richmond has set a good example, and

it is having its influence. Since the

crusade began here for clean streets,

public baths, improved sanitation, and

a more efficient health department, sim-

ilar crusades have begun in several other

cities and towns, and the spirit is spread-

ing all over the State. No man liveth

to himself.

Home-Made Meats.

The Washington Post remarks that if

at any time the people of the South

have suffered either in their stomachs

or in their pockets because of the high

price or the unwholesome character of

the Chicago meat products, they have

only themselves to blame, as there has

never been the smallest reason why they

should not feed themselves from their

own herds, flocks, dairies and barn-

yards.

The Times-Dispatch made much the

same remark several days ago. It is

gratifying to know, however, that the

Southern States are greatly increasing

their livestock products. It is estimated

that such products increased in value

\$12,000,000 from 1890 to 1900. Seven of

the Southern States raised 50,000,000

chickens, 2,500,000 geese, and 1,500,000

ducks annually. They produce 200,000,000

pounds of butter, and the total value of

their animal products is said to be \$250,-

000,000 a year.

As for Virginia, her hog meat is famous

the world over, and her beef and mutton

have no superior. Meats with the Vir-

ginia label will always pass inspection.

The Commissioner of Roads.

Governor Swanson has appointed Mr.

P. St. J. Wilson to be Commissioner of

Highways for Virginia, and it is said

that he is in every way qualified and

equipped to discharge the duties of that

responsible position. The Times-Dispatch

long advocated the creation of a State

Highway Commission with a compe-

tent engineer in charge, and is glad that

the plan in which it so firmly believes,

is to be put to the test.

The counties have spent enough money

to have threatened the State with mac-

adamized roads. But the money has

been in great part wasted, and the coun-

ties have little to show for it—and all

for the lack of intelligent direction.

Mr. Wilson has the opportunity of

doing the State a great service, and of

handing his name down to posterity as

a public benefactor. The Times-Dispatch

will be glad to cooperate with him in

his work, and so will all the new-pa-

pers of Virginia.

Give the South Representation.

The Raleigh Times agrees with The

Times-Dispatch that the South should

insist upon having representation in the

Interstate Commerce Commission, if the

bill now pending shall pass. Our con-

temporary fears that the South will not

get but one representative, but says

that certainly we are entitled to that.

"The popular argument hereabouts

against the measure," adds the Times,

"was that it would work to the benefit

of the North and the West, to the detri-

ment of South Atlantic States, and that

will prove to be true if we have no rep-

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to give us some of the benefits which

have been pictured in such grand and

lurid colors."

With a commission composed entirely

of Northern and Western men, it would

be little short of a miracle if Southern

interests did not suffer. We must have

two or more able and loyal Southern

men on the commission, and Southern

members of Congress should make terms

in advance.

Bryan and the Donkey.

Mr. William Jennings Bryan, Jr., who

has just returned from a trip abroad,

relates that while in Manila his father

mounted a donkey and attempted to take

a ride into the surrounding country, but

the donkey became erratic and bucked,

and the great Commoner was thrown to

the ground. It is further related that

when Mr. Bryan hit Mother Earth, he

remarked: "This is the third time I

have been thrown by a donkey."

Now, it is well known that the donkey

is the animal which the wicked have

selected and employed to symbolize the

Democratic party, and Mr. Bryan must

have had that fact in mind when he

made the remark attributed to him in

the story. It was hardly fair, however,

to the Democratic party that bore Mr.

Bryan upon its back so faithfully for two

campaigns, and did its best to convey him

to the White House.

Surely, the docile and faithful beast

might well imitate his brother of Biblical

name and speak rebuke.

"And the ass said unto Balaam, What

have I done unto thee, that thou hast

smitten me these three times?"

"And Balaam said unto the ass, Because

thou hast mocked me."

"And the ass said unto Balaam, Am I

not thine ass, upon which thou hast

ridden ever since I was thine unto this

day? Was I ever wont to do so unto

thee?"

An explanation or an apology from Mr.

Bryan is in order.

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Rhymes for To-Day

The Asylum Serenade.

LADY, I beg thee to hark to my

ditty,

Sung "neath thy still in the full of

the moon:

Wake! for the nightingale's chanting so

wild!

Near where the boarder is eating his

prune.

Wake in a hurry, dress in a hurry,

Hurry yourself into boot and goshawk!

Pluck a syringe, fly with the singer

Down where the prettiest mermaids

wash.

Lady, I love thee a mile and a muckle;

Come, entertain me an hour or so;

I will lose money to you at peaknuckle—

Where will you find any lavisher here?

Lady, art dressing? Don't keep me

guessing—

Stop not for books, and, oh, stay not

For evel!

Don't keep me waiting—I'd have gone

skating.

But that my tools are all the wrong

size.

Lady, I'm only a wandering loony,

Singing his love on a talking machine—

Still, if you deem that my chanson is

tune.

Pass me, in mercy, a cold Irma bean.

If you won't, stay, if you don't—

Hunger has seized me, and there lies

the rub!

Sorry about 'Nelly, I'm not same jelly,

Toss me some plover, vittles and

scrub. H. S. H.

Her Specialty.—Mike: "Kin yure wolve

cook as good a yure mother out to